

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3758

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4877

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO, AS, US

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR COMMITTEE OF 24 VISIT TO COCOS

REF: CANBERRA 4526

1. GOA PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT OF COMMITTEE OF 24 TO COCOS KEELING ISLANDS, APPROXIMATELY 8-11 AUGUST, GOING FORWARD. COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF REPS FROM INDONESIA, IVORY COAST, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WILL BE MET IN CANBERRA BY JAMES DICKSON, REPRESENTATIVE OF CLUNIES-ROSS INTERESTS ON ISLANDS, AND THREE MALAY HEADMEN, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THEM ON VISIT. GOA TELLS US THAT PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE OF 24 MISSION IS AMERICAN CITIZEN MEMBER OF UN SECRETARIAT, R. W. WATHEN, CONCERNING WHOM AUSTRALIANS WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE BIO INFORMATION.

2. GOA ALSO TELLS US THAT MISSION HAS ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. NAVY MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM COCOS, THOUGH NO ANSWERS YET PROVIDED.

3. MISSION WILL TRAVEL TO COCOS ON CHARTERED JET WHICH
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MAKES REGULAR MILK RUN TO COCOS, TRANSPORTING FOOD AND

OTHER SUPPLIES TO ISLANDS. GOA CONTACT WITH MISSION ON COCOS WILL BE HANDLED BY F. L. AHRENS AND CLAUDE RESEIGH, SENIOR OFFICERS OF DEPT OF SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY MISSION ON VISIT. THREE TO FOUR AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPS ALSO WILL ACCOMPANY MISSION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT OR USUN PROVIDE AVAILABLE BIO INFORMATION ON R.W. WATHEN AND NAMES AND BIO INFO ON OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION.
HARROP

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